

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 - 12, and 14 - 19 are in this application and are presented for reconsideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 3 - 12 and 14 - 15, canceled Claims 2 and 13 and added new claims 16 - 19 and made various minor changes to the drawings, specification, and claims to improve the clarity and style of this application and to highlight the combination of features which define over the prior art references to address issues raised in the Office Action.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful reading of the application, and for providing suggestions for the Claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of the cancelled Claim 2. Claim 13 has been cancelled and a new Claim 16 now includes the combination of features as provided in the cancelled Claim 13, but in a U.S. style. The dependent Claims The dependent Claims 17 - 19 include the combination of features as provided in the dependent Claims 3 and 4. It is Applicant's position that the claims as now presented define over the prior art as a whole and the substitute specification and the new Claims are clear and definite and the new Claims do not add any new matter to the application.

By this Amendment, the Applicant has several claims to overcome the Examiner's objections and rejections and respectfully makes assertions for overcoming the rejections of the outstanding Office Action dated February 24, 2005 in the following paragraphs.

Specification

The Office Action states that there are numerous grammatical errors replete throughout

the application. The examiner requested Applicant's cooperation in correcting any errors which Applicant may become aware in the specification.

In response, Applicant submits, herewith, a substitute Specification which corrects the errors Applicant has become aware of in the Specification and also a Marked-up copy of the Specification comparison.

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) for not including the reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: i.e., Electrical conductors 2 are missing in Figures 1 and 2.

Applicant submits, herewith, Replacement Sheets for Figures 1 and 2 and requests review of the Replacement Sheets.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 13 - 15 have been objected to for using "composing" instead of "comprising of".

Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 14 - 15 to adhere to the suggestion provided in the Office Action and canceled Claim 13.

The Claims cited inconsistent usage of the term "electrical connector" with the term, "said electrical conductor".

Claims 1 - 15 have been objected to for having numerous grammatical errors replete

throughout and render convoluted and indefinite limitations.

In response, Applicant has reviewed and amended the Claims 1 - 15 to make the Claims clear and definite.

Claims 5 and 7 have been objected to for using the term, “the long trunk” which lacks sufficient antecedent basis.

Applicant has amended Claims 5 and 7 to address this issue.

Claim 7 has been objected for reciting the phrase “the multiple electrical conductors” which lacks sufficient antecedent basis.

Applicant has amended Claim 7 to address this issue as well.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1 - 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Rejection states that the Claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice, as they appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

In response, Applicant has reviewed and amended the Claims 1, 2 - 12 and 14 - 15 and cancelled the Claims 2 and 13. It is Applicant’s position that the Claims as presented are now clear and definite and overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112..

Additionally, the new Claims 16 - 19 have been added, which are drafted according to

the U.S. practice, and it is Applicant's position that the new Claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Favorable consideration of the new Claims is requested.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 - 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Wu (U.S. Patent No. 6,126,298, the "Wu '298" reference, hereinafter).

The prior art as a whole including the Wu '298 reference neither teaches nor suggests the present invention as claimed. The Wu '298 reference discloses a support structure for Christmas lighting string including a lamp bulb, lamp base, lamp holder, multiple electrical conductors, receptacles, flasher control and non-electrical conductor. The non-electrical connectors are simultaneously or individually fixed with the electrical conductors by knots so that the lamp bulbs are limited in proper spaced intervals so as to form a certain appearance, design or words and to obtain a decorative effect.

However, there are important features (including several combination aspects) of the present invention which are not disclosed, anticipated nor suggested in the Wu '298 reference. First, the present invention as claimed provides for the non-electrical connectors which have much stronger resistance strength to the draw force than the electrical conductors. Applicant has reviewed the Wu '298 reference, and nowhere in the Wu '298 reference does it disclose that the non-electrical connectors are stronger than the electrical conductors. This is important as the strength of the non-electrical connectors provide for a much improved life span of the

decoration light string by minimizing the damage on the decoration light string due to the drawing force on the electrical conductors.

Second, the present invention as claimed provides for rate of extension of the non-electrical connectors to be smaller than the rate of extension of the electrical conductors. This is another important feature of the present invention as claimed, as when the light string is drawn out by force, the tension strength will be put on the non-electrical connectors and not the electrical conductors. Therefore, the smaller rate of extension of the non-electrical connectors allow the non-electrical connectors to provide for the strength of the light string.

Third, the present invention as claimed provides for fixing the non-electrical connectors at least on three places in a particular predetermined position from one position to another, that is, the head portion, the tail portion and the intermediate portion. Therefore, the present invention as claimed can operate by just fixing the non-electrical connectors on only three positions fixed on the particular predetermined positions from one position to another, because the three positions are enough to allow the non-electrical connectors to sustain any drawing force on the electrical conductors. In contrast, the Wu '298 reference discloses a shape contour function which requires that the knots be placed at almost every different angle and at every connecting point for a device from the Wu '298 reference to form a certain appearance, design or words and to obtain a decorative effect.

Lastly, the dependent Claims 3 and 17 make it clear that the non-electrical connectors are shorter than the electrical conductors according to one embodiment of the invention. According to the Wu '298 reference, in the Figure 9 which has been referred to in the Office

Action, it is clear that the non-electrical connectors are longer than the electrical conductors.

Applicant further notes that the Wu '298 reference does not provide any suggestion or motivation which would lead a person of ordinary skill in the art to believe that the knots would provide a countering force against the drawing force of the light structures. Instead, the Wu '298 reference leads a person of ordinary skill in the art to make the non-electrical connectors in conjunction with the electrical conductors, completely different from the present invention as claimed.


Furthermore, the Wu '298 reference presents no incentive which would lead a person to all the structural features of the stronger, and slower rate of extension for the non-electrical connector which is fixed at least on three positions. The independent Claim 1 and its dependent Claims therefore cannot be obvious in view of the Wu '298 reference. Thus, invention should be considered not anticipated, non-obvious and thus patentable.

As the prior art fails to suggest the combination of features as claimed, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider the claims as now presented in view of the new and the amended claims and in view of the discussion above. Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of this application.

It is applicant's position that all claims are now allowable. Should the Examiner determine that issues remain that have not been resolved by this response, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

By: 
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McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.

JJM/DWK:tf
71182.6

Enclosed: (2) Replacement Sheets of Drawings
Substitute Specification
Marked-Up Version of the Specification


DATED: May 24, 2005
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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.

BY:  DATE: May 24, 2005

IN THE DRAWINGS:

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